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JOHN H. HOLLOMAN III CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

March 21, 1970

Dear Lee:

I enjoyed very much our conversation last weekend at the Airlie Conference. Also, I finally got around to your article in Playboy this week and found it the most definitive explanation of liberal Republicanism I have read.

In case you are not aware, the Evening Star carried an article one night last week indicating a great many of the participants in the Conference were ready to bolt the party. You were quoted as having said they should at least wait until after the November elections. Assuming that the press account was correct, it is my opinion that the quickest way to completely eliminate our effectiveness within the GOP is to even suggest the possibility of withdrawing from our party. The Nixon Administration, to this point, has been at worst completely reactionary and at best totally indecisive. No one is more frustrated with this state of affairs than I. However, for all the reasons you stated in your Playboy article, this is the logical home for us and we must not give up. In addition, I must say I resent the liberty the assembly took with my political effectiveness by making quotable remarks which may well taint all of us in attendance by association. Consequently, I shall not be participating in such meetings in the future.

Please excuse my ascension to the soapbox, but I felt the necessity to relate to you my views concerning the news account. Keep in touch and let me know whenever you are in town.

Sincerely yours,

Mitch McConnell

Legislative Assistant to Senator Marlow W. Cook

Mr. Josiah Lee Auspitz 14 Line Street Somerville, Massachusetts 02143